

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 through 7 and 12 are pending, with Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 being independent.

Claims 8 through 11 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 have been amended.

REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION RE CERTIFIED COPIES

The Official Action indicates that “SOME” of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. Applicant respectfully submits that --ALL-- of the certified copies were filed on October 23, 2003, and Applicant respectfully requests that the next Official Action so indicate.

FURTHER REMARKS

The title was objected to, which objection is respectfully traversed and is submitted to have been obviated by the amendment of the title in a manner earnestly believed to avoid the grounds of objection.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite. All rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the deletion of the objected-to expression “a new data storage area for the data storage area”.

Claims 1 through 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over newly-cited US 2003/0182503 A1 (Leong, et al.). All rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12 variously recite, *inter alia*, transmitting (by/from the first device or the apparatus) one request which designates a plurality of data storage devices in the first device (Claims 1 and 2) or in the apparatus (Claims 6 and 12), in combination with “not updating” / “updating” as claimed.

However, Applicant respectfully submits that Leong, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed claimed features as recited, *inter alia*, in Claims 1, 2, 6, and 12.

Applicant respectfully submits that Leong, et al. shows, e.g., that a storage system controls a disk in a disk array. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the storage system does not send a request designating a plurality of data storage areas in the storage system and does not update as claimed.

Further, the taking of Official Notice is respectfully traversed in the absence of a cited reference. MPEP 2144.03.

Applicant further respectfully submits that there has been no showing of any indication of motivation in the cited document that would lead one having ordinary skill in the art to arrive at such features. By means of such features, Applicant respectfully submits that, for example, it is possible to independently control a data communication for each area among the data storage areas.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from independent claims discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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